

ENERGY TIDBITS

September 2003

Low-Income Energy Assistance and Programs Request for Proposals has been issued by the MPSC. Proposals for low-income programs are due September 24. \$7 million is available. Proposals for low-income payment assistance are due October 8. \$13 million is available. <http://www.michigan.gov/mpsc>

Michigan NextEnergy Authority was created to promote the development of alternative energy technologies and to provide tax incentives for business activities and property related to the research, development, and manufacturing of those technologies. Alternative energy property can be exempt from business personal property taxes. Requests for 2003 exemptions are due October 15, 2003. In addition businesses can claim a credit against their Single Business Tax liability. Additional information: <http://medc.michigan.org/AdvMfg/Reports/>. Questions can be directed to Vince Nystrom, Michigan Economic Development Corp. at 517/241-5898.

Improving Energy Performance in K-12 Schools and the Public Sector will be held on September 25, 8:30am-12:30pm at the State Library and Museum in Lansing. The workshop is tailored to help business managers, superintendents, energy managers, facilities personnel, and city managers to understand and improve the energy performance of their facilities. www.michigan.gov/eoworkshops

Metro Detroit Green Building Resource Directory can be found at <http://www.warmtraining.org/ResDir/index.php>

August 14! See next item.

Michigan CHP Buyers Forum will be held on November 18 at the Henry Center, MSU in E. Lansing in conjunction with the 2-day MicroGeneration to PowerParks Conference. The forum is designed for energy consultants, institutions and businesses interested in combined heat and power applications. Topics will include case studies, technologies, financing and incentives, and resources to assist potential users. More: www.micleantech.org.

Energy Smart Guide to Campus Cost Savings: Today's Trends in Project Finance, Clean Fuel Fleets, Combined Heat & Power, and Emissions Markets can be found at: <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy03osti/34291.pdf>

Renewables For You Conference will be hosted by Recycle Ann Arbor on Saturday, October 11 from 8 AM to 2 PM at the University of Michigan League. A \$25 registration fee includes a box lunch. <http://www.recycleannarbor.org/events/events.htm>

City of Ann Arbor recently bought two small, low-speed electric vehicles for a total of \$20,342 as a demonstration project. One is a four-passenger car that is being used to transport city staff and guests to city meetings and facilities. The other, for use by the Parks and Recreation Department, is a small flatbed truck that can haul 1,300 pounds. The DaimlerChrysler-made cars, called Gems, cost only a penny a mile to operate. The vehicles plug into a normal wall outlet and have a range of about 30 miles.

MPSC Consumer Forums will be held from September 9-October 2 in seven locations around the state. A focus of this year's forums will be a discussion on the increase of wholesale natural gas prices and how the increases will impact monthly bills. <http://www.cis.state.mi.us/mpsc/execsec/alerts/2003forums.pdf>

Proposed Iowa Stored Energy Plant will use a 100 MW wind power facility to pump air into an underground aquifer, compressing the air. During times of peak power demand, the compressed air will be supplied to 200 MW of combustion turbines that are fired with natural gas, allowing the turbines to operate at high efficiencies. The cost is estimated at \$215 million. The startup date is mid-2006. www.idea.iastate.edu/isep/index.asp

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Energy Office Moved. Please make note that our office moved to a new location. Our phone numbers and e-mail addresses remained the same. Beginning August 25, 2003 our address changed to: 611 W. Ottawa, PO Box 30221, Lansing, MI 48909.

Alliance for Environmental Sustainability is a non-profit in Grand Rapids providing education to consumers and industry professionals on environmentally friendly materials, energy efficient systems and products, healthy indoor air quality and affordable construction. www.alliancees.org

University of Missouri-Rolla took 1st place in the American Solar Challenge, the 2,300-mile solar car race from Chicago to Los Angeles. Missouri-Rolla averaged nearly 43.3 miles/hour and beat the record time from 2001 by more than four hours. Western Michigan U. came in 5th out of 20 teams. <http://www.americansolarchallenge.org/>

Mercury in CFL's? A power plant will emit 10 mg of mercury producing the electricity to light an incandescent bulb over a 5-year life, but only 2.4 mg of mercury to run a compact fluorescent for the same time. The CFL contains 4 mg of mercury. (*Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation*)

DERMOND Wind Turbine (DWT) from McKenzie Bay International is designed for rooftop applications because the blades rotate around the mast, allowing them to operate in areas with changing wind directions. The turnkey wind system incorporates a DWT and a Vanadium-based battery. Commercial production is planned for next year. DERMOND will install three 100 kW demonstration units in North America to showcase the technology. <http://www.mckenziebay.com/misc/overview.htm>

Waste Reduction & Energy Efficiency Conference will be held on November 5 at the Burton Manor, Livonia. Energy sessions will cover fuel cells, lighting upgrades, compressed air optimization, steam best practices, and a case study on the EPA Vehicle Emissions Laboratory. www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-ess-brochure-wree2003.pdf

Wind Power for Industry brochure outlines ways for industry to integrate wind power, including assessing wind power, building wind farms, using a developer, capitalizing on technology, enhancing the corporate image, and preparing RFPs. Company examples and information resources are also provided. www.nrel.gov/docs/fy03osti/33516.pdf



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